

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000282

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: F16B 5/02, 12/18, 12/32, 37/00; A47B 47/04; B25B 5/10; E04B 1/61

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
AU database F16B 2/02, 5/02, 12/18, 12/32; A47B 47/04; B25B 5/10; E04B 1/61Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
DWPI: IPC A47B 47/-; F16B 12/-, 5/-; B25B 5/-; E04B 1/61 keywords clamp, join, connect, abut, screw, thread, draw, torque, adjust, channel, slot, recess, groove, housing, socket, passage, pocket and similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2004/014611 A1 (DORNEY) 19 February 2004	
A	WO 2003/035992 A1 (PILJA) 1 May 2003	
A	WO 2003/095847 A1 (SMITH) 20 November 2003	
A	AU 35441/93 A (THE VISADOR CO (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD) 30 September 1993	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T ¹ later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*A ² document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X ³ document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*E ⁴ earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	*Y ⁵ document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*L ⁶ document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z ⁷ document member of the same patent family
*O ⁸ document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
*P ⁹ document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 16 May 2005	Date of mailing of the international search report 20 MAY 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer D.R. LUM Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2544

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

(See supplemental box following)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-32

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: III

1. Claims 1-32 directed to a self aligning coupling device including elongate connecting portion with channel abutment portion and laterally projecting lug arranged such that in use the coupling device may be installed in the channel with the channel abutment portion located at least partially within the channel and the lug located outside the channel. It is considered that the channel abutment portion and laterally projecting lug arranged as such comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 33-37 directed to an engagement assembly functioning as a clamp member with elongate threaded member and with first and second bevel gear members and housing with external surface which, in use, abuts a surface of the object to be clamped. It is considered that the engagement assembly with first and second bevel gear members and housing arranged as such comprises a second "special technical feature".

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

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Information on patent family members

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member		
WO	2004014611	AU	2003246462	CA	2495494
				AU	0301007
WO	03035992	CA	2445710	CN	1535346
		NZ	529996	US	2004169168
WO	03095847	AU	2003222677		
AU	35441/93		NONE		
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.					
END OF ANNEX					